

**The "Perfect"/Healthy Form of 2 Great Horses, and the *Imperfect* Form of a Contender...**

I will be doing a series of 8 Articles thru the 1<sup>st</sup> week of May, highlighting the form of most of the contenders, for this years Kentucky Derby. I am starting in this "piece" by looking at some interesting and exceptional horses who have competed in last 3 KD. Two were phenomenally successful, the other "not so much". Maybe together, we can see some handicapping ideas, which can serve us all year long.

Please take a good long look at the FORM/FIG – with me – surprisingly, they will come to life for you. And you will be able to see, just as I am able to see, the form of a horse in vivid detail, as the horse grows up! And, even better, these ideas and information will "CONNECT" with your handicapping -- in a really positive way. But it does take a moment of your time! **We have this Article and 8 more to follow, so let's get started!**

LEGEND [ = Wet Track, > = Good Track ... "Q" = 1m + 1/4, "r" = 1m + 1/16<sup>th</sup>, "R" = 1m + 1/8<sup>th</sup>, "S" = 7 furlongs, "s" = 6.5 furlong, " " = 6 furlongs, "d" = Less than 6 furlongs, [stippled] = Dirt Race

**AMERICAN PHAROAH**

79.0Q	78.5R	76=r	77=r	77-S	70=
win	win	win	win	win	
80.3					
72.8	77.3	63.5	69.5	77.8	81.0
70.5					
CDX5	OAK5	OAK5	SAN4	DMR4	DMR4
05/02	04/11	03/14	09/27	09/03	08/09
R#6	R#5	R#4	R#3	R#2	R#1
K.D. , 3 Yr Old 2015			2 Year Old 2014		

*Legend*

- ← Final Fig
- ← All Dirt Races
- ← Key 4f Pace Fig
- ← Track & Yr
- ← Date

**2 Yr Old Form – Commentary (A.P.)**

Race #1 is **Fast-Early** sporting a high pace # of **81.0**. Race #2 his **Final Fig jumps up to 77.3**, a true GR 1. Race #3 he goes faster and longer, improving his closing kick. (**lower pace** and **higher final fig!**)

\* **MORE LATE SPEED!** We see this demonstrated thru the first 3 races, as he Key Pace Fig lowers and the FINAL FIGS rise.

**3 Yr Old Form - Commentary – "A.P.The Healthy Horse"** – American Pharoah, came out on 3/14 running a 76= (76.8), just as he should, but as an added bonus, his pace fig was again a little lower, so his "come-home Speed" was greater – **again MORE LATE SPEED**. Then in the Ark Derby, he was super fit, literally coming out of his skin, as ALL HIS FIGS, both Early and Late were again increasing! And he exploded in the Kentucky

**NYQUIST**

>>80.5Q	78.0R	77.8S	77.8r	70.8r	73.8	77.3	74.5d
win	win	win	win	win	win	win	win
81.8							
81.5	81.0	X81.3	72.3	69.5	82.8	74.0	78.8
78.3							
CHU6	GLF6	SAN6	KEE5	SAN5	DMR5	DMR5	SAN5
05/07	04/02	02/15	10/31	09/26	09/07	08/08	06/05

**2 Yr Old Form – Commentary** – Sharp opening his **78.8** in his Race #1, points to Brilliance. However, his following 2 yr old **PACE FIGS** were sometimes very fast early or more moderate. And he showed "**Great ability**", if he ran slow early, he ran VERY,VERY Fast on the run to the wire. His B.C. race on 10/31 was one of the most outstanding 2 year old races I have witnessed, considering the Max Trouble and Bad PP! **This was the kind of HUGE TOP, that knocks horses out!**

**3 Yr Old Form - Commentary – "The Healthy Horse"** – NYQUIST, came out on 2/15 with a stellar race, staying "in the pink". It was obvious, with a higher Pace Number from a tough "X"- Post Position and an equally fast final fig, after the 3.5 month layoff! But he no longer rated kindly! Now as a 3 years old, he has fallen in love with running FAST-- as every **Pace Number was 81.0 or higher** and this was exceptional, especially at distances. Only the Greatest race horses could run this fast early and finish the Kentucky Derby with a **FINAL FIG above 80.0**. **This Combination of High Early Energy, sustained over long distances, under scale weight - got him to the Derby, but not beyond.**

**CLASSIC EMPIRE**

*Massive Lifetime Best effort*

75.8Q	76=r	72=r	78.5r	73.0r	dnf	72.5	66.0d
	w	s	w	<< w	<<	w	w
			si			si	
70	71=	75-	74-	78=	***	69=	75-
CHU7	OAK7	GLF7	SAN6	KEE6	SAR6	CHU6	CHU6
05/06	04/15	02/04	11/05	10/08	09/05	07/02	05/04

**2 Yr Old Form – Commentary**

He didn't show the brilliance of either American Pharoah or Nyquist, with solid but not exceptional Pace Figs.

Then on 11/5/16 - we see the HUGE 5.5 Top - run in the BC Juvy , when he ran a monster 78.5 for a 2 year old!

***This could been a KNOCKOUT TOP!***

**3 Yr Old Form - Commentary – "The UN-Healthy Horse"** – We see it immediately, his return race at Gulfstream on Feb 4<sup>th</sup> was just so poor. Unlike Am Pharoah and Nyquist, both returned to the races, in their opening 3 yr old races with **VERVE!** Nyquist with sharp early speed and Am Pharoah with a **fantastic finish**. For Classic Empire his "fabulous moment" came as a 2 year old on Nov 5, 2016. You can see for yourself he struggled thereafter. While logic would dictate his 78.5 as a 2 year old would project out well above an 80.0 as a 3 year old, it didn't happen and he simply struggled thereafter. **But I must add, his effort in the Preakness was valiant**, but his form was not sufficient to support his effort!